



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

NIH ↓

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20205
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SEP 19 1984

*J Lederberg
invited*

Efraim Racker, M.D.
Albert Einstein Professor
of Biochemistry
Cornell University
Wing Hall
Ithaca, New York 14853



Dear Efraim:

This is to confirm my invitation to you to join us for a dinner meeting and discussion on the philosophy and operations of the extramural awards system. We plan to meet on Sunday, September 30, at the Stone House on the NIH Campus beginning at 5 p.m. *21*

More than 35 years have passed since the current system was established. While it continues to operate effectively, it has become increasingly clear that the time and effort devoted by both applicants and reviewers is now compromising support for the process. I hope to hear your views on possible steps NIH could take to achieve three critical objectives: 1) simplifying the system so it would operate more efficiently; 2) fostering creativity in the conduct of research; and 3) assuring equity of access and of review to all applicants. Enclosed with this letter are some specific questions that you may find helpful in addressing this issue. On the day after our meeting, I will convene a one-day retreat of Institute directors to follow up on your suggestions.

Peer review is the cornerstone of high quality research, and your help in finding ways to assure that it retains the confidence of all will be much appreciated. I look forward to seeing you.

Travel arrangements can be made through Betty Shelton (301-496-3152).

Sincerely,

Jim

James B. Wyngaarden, M.D.
Director

Enclosure

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